

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner objected to the title stating that it is not descriptive. The title has been amended per the Examiner's recommendation.

Claim 1 has been amended, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 19 and 20 have been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoneno et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,525,782. Yoneno has been amended to add the limitation that the steam supply portion is "located in the lower back portion of the heating chamber." The Examiner admits in Item 9 in the Office action that Yoneno does not teach the location of the steam generating portion. However, in Item 9 the Examiner states that Kawada shows a microwave oven with a steam generating portion on the bottom of the heating chamber. However, referring to Fig. 3 of Kawada, Kawada teaches a steam generating portion under a large portion of the bottom surface of the heating chamber and just in the back lower portion of the heating chamber. Thus, Kawada does not teach where the steam supply portion is "located in the lower back portion of the heating chamber." Therefore, Kawada does not teach all the limitations of claim 1.

Yoneno does not teach all the limitations of claims 8 and 9. More specifically Yoneno does not teach a preheating means. Referring to column 7, lines 14-15 of Yoneno, the specification states that a heater 3 is employed for heating the food. The specification does not

state that the heater is used for preheating purposes. FIGURES 4-7 further show that the heater 3 is the only heater within the oven. In regard to FIGURES 8, 9, and 12 where a high frequency generating source and a heater 3 are shown the heater 3 is still used as a heating means as disclosed in column 10, lines 58-60 and in column 10, lines 1-4. Thus, Yoneno does not teach a preheating means. Therefore, Yoneno does not teach all the limitations of claims 8 and 9.

Claims 11, 12, 14, and 15 depend on amended claim 1, thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to these claims and are herein incorporated by reference.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurita et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,232,587. Kurita does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 1. More specifically Kurita does not teach where the steam supply portion is "located in the lower back portion of the heating chamber." Referring to FIGURE 3 of Kurita, FIGURE 3 shows that the water supply tank 15 and vapor generator 12 are located on a side of the heating chamber 3. Thus, Kurita does not teach where the steam supply portion is "located in the lower back portion of the heating chamber." Therefore, Kurita does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 1.

Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15 depend either directly or indirectly on amended claim 1, thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to these claims and are herein incorporated by reference.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,133,558. Ueda does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 1. More specifically Ueda does not teach where the steam supply portion is "located in the lower back portion of the heating chamber." Referring to FIGURE 1 and column 4, lines 6-19 of Ueda, Ueda discloses a feed water tank 12 that feeds water through a feed water pump 19 to a boiler 16

where the water is heated into to steam. FIGURE 1 shows that the feed water tank and boiler are located on a side of the heating chamber 12. Thus, Ueda does not teach where the steam supply portion is "located in the lower back portion of the heating chamber." Therefore, Ueda does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 1.

Claim 14 depends on amended claim 1, thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 14 and are herein incorporated by reference.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 10 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Yoneno et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,525,782 in view of Kurita et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,232,587.

Claims 5, 10 and 16-18 depend either directly or indirectly on amended claim 1, thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to these claims and are herein incorporated by reference.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Yoneno et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,525,782 in view of

Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 13 depend either directly or indirectly on amended claim 1, thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to these claims and are herein incorporated by reference.

In regard to claim 19, none of the cited references teach "a feed water pipe connecting the feed water tank to the steam supply portion where the feed water pipe further comprises an intermediate portion; and, a heater to heat the water in the intermediate portion."

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same
to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36549.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By:


Michael W. Garvey, Reg. No. 35878

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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